

## DR HUXLEY'S BEQUEST: A HISTORY OF MEDICINE IN THIRTEEN OBJECTS

**Author:** Michelle Cooper

**Publisher:** Fitz Osborne Press (2018)

**ISBN:** 9780648165132 (paperback, 342 pages)

**Reviewed by Shannon Fletcher**

Science, Mathematics & STEM teacher

Ipswich State High School

An exciting novel that is difficult to put down. The strong characters draw the reader into living their daily lives with them in their exciting quest to tie together the pieces of a puzzle before time runs out; a lot is relying on their success.

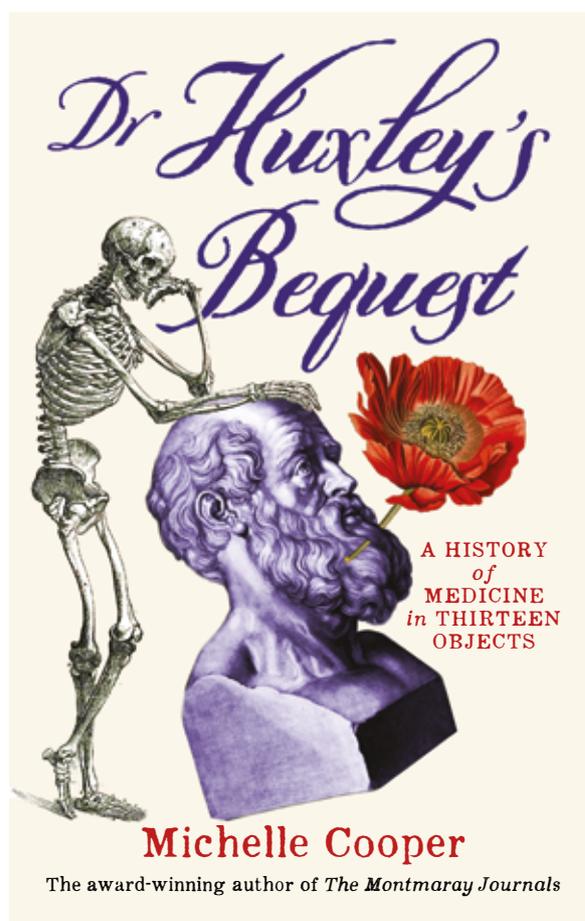
Michelle Cooper is an award-winning author of young adult books. In this book, the author displays an understanding of how young adults process ideas and problem-solve. It is evident that she has comprehensively researched the scientific concepts and her writing shows a good understanding of the scientific method.

The informal style of writing will appeal to the young adult reader and its simplified scientific language is easy to read. Humour has also been structured into the story to help draw the reader deeper into the daily lives of the characters. The common thread of following the history of medicine through the ages is also easy to follow.

This book will also appeal to an adult. The details and historical facts are interesting and informative, allowing the reader to make connections from prior knowledge to thereby gain a viewpoint of the history of medicine over time.

The author has created a beautiful tapestry of the lives of fictional characters in their quest for information about the true identity of objects. Their quest also leads them to explore the historical lives of nonfictional scientists and doctors, who have been on their own quests to find hidden organisms and cures.

The content of the book has been well researched and presented as accurately as possible. The author approaches complex scientific content by simplifying it,



using analogies and examples. Diagrams are also given to help with the understanding of certain concepts that use difficult scientific terminology.

An added touch, that was inspiring, were the quotes from the different scientists and doctors the characters meet in their quest, extending the discoveries the characters make within the context of the story. It showed the historical figure as a real person with ideas and knowledge that can be shared with the reader today.

When I first picked up this book, it was boring, and I thought it would be a challenge to read. However, on reflection, I can say I was wrong, as this book did not disappoint. I would recommend it as a good read to digest and enjoy.